

Smith, Tasha

From: Rep. Mushinsky, Mary
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 4:16 PM
To: 5ctwhites@gmail.com
Cc: JudTestimony
Subject: RE: Support and Amend H.B. 7285

Kathy,

I am not on the Judiciary Committee, which is hearing this bill tomorrow, so I am not able to amend it at this time. I recommend you re-write this letter into testimony addressed to the Judiciary Committee, so they will amend the bill as you wish. I will support the bill when it emerges from the committee onto the House floor.

Mary Mushinsky

(send your email to Judiciary Committee testimony address--see my cc for their address)

> -----Original Message-----

> From: 5ctwhites@gmail.com [mailto:5ctwhites@gmail.com]

> Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 8:36 AM

> To: Rep. Mushinsky, Mary

> Subject: Support and Amend H.B. 7285

>

> Kathy White

> 333 Christian Street

> Wallingford, CT 06492-3818

>

>

> March 23, 2017

>

> The Honorable Mary M. Mushinsky

> Connecticut House of Representatives

> Legislative Office Building

> Hartford, CT 06106

>

>

> Representative Mushinsky:

>

> As your constituent, I urge you to support H.B. 7285, an act concerning

> complaints that allege misconduct by law enforcement agency personnel.

> Please encourage your colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to amend and

> strengthen this bill.

>

> As a supporter of liberty, justice, and equality for all people, police

> accountability is critically important to me. Community members like me need

> and deserve police departments that treat everyone fairly, and that are

> accessible, transparent, and held accountable. A functional police complaint

> process is just one step toward ensuring that this system exists in our district and

> throughout our state.

>

> Too many Connecticut residents live in towns where police departments are not

> following state rules for accepting and addressing police complaints.
> These are rules that the legislature prompted and they are critically important
> for helping community members and police alike.
>
> H.B. 7285 recognizes problems with Connecticut's current police complaint
> system. This bill could be strengthened to fix these problems. I urge you to
> support amending H.B. 7285 to: establish meaningful penalties for law
> enforcement agencies that do not comply with state complaint acceptance and
> investigation laws; create a standardized complaint form for all law
> enforcement agencies in the state; and require law enforcement agencies to
> track and report complaint data annually.
>
> In an editorial earlier this year, the Hartford Courant urged the legislature to fix
> Connecticut's current police complaint law in these ways, and noted that "the
> level of noncompliance with a state law that law enforcement officials
> themselves helped to forge mandates it." I agree.
>
> I urge you to support H.B. 7285 and to support amendments that would make
> this bill even stronger.
>
> Sincerely,
>
>
> Kathy White
> 2034999518
>
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